उसके लिए आप क्या करने वाले हैं ? मेरी जानकारी यह है कि किसी फारेन कंपनी से आपने कांटेक्ट किया है । जो गैस जलाई जा रही है, उसका उपयोग करने के लिए आप क्या करेंगे ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is an unanswerable question. Please briefly say something so that I can pass on to the next question because too much technical discussions are there.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, as I had mentioned earlier, the flaring of gas in the Bombay High is already down to technical zero level because of the multi-billion dollar project - three billion dollar project, which had been underway and which has been completed on time. We were discussing about Assam just now. About other areas also I would like to inform the hon. Member. In Gujarat, the flaring in North Gujarat is down to technical zero level, the necessary compression facilities are being set-up in South Gujarat to reduce the flaring to technical level by May, 1996. A number of consumers have been identified for utilisation of gas from isolated pools. In Tripura, there is no flaring of gas, only free gas is being produced. In K.G. Basin, the flaring at Ravva off-shore field will continue till July, 1996, when the required facilities for utilisation of gas are likely to be set up. In the Cauvery Basin, at present, most of the gas...I am giving an overall picture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that is enough.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: All right, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question Number 402, as there has been too much of gas!

*402. [*The Questioner (Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave) was absent. For answer vide col.....infra.*]

व्यापारिक प्रतिष्ठानों द्वारा रसोई गैस सिलेंडरों का उपयोग किया जाना

*403. **श्री आरू मोहम्मद** : क्या पट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि घरेलू कार्यों में प्रयुक्त किये जाने वाले रसोई गैस सिलेंडरों का व्यापारिक प्रतिष्ठानों द्वारा उपयोग किया है जा रहा है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार इस भ्रष्ट प्रक्रिया को रोकने हेतू कठोर कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखता है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Reports of domestic cylinders finding way for use by unauthorised customers including business establishments are sometimes received. In established cases, suitable action under the marketing discipline guidelines, which have been made more stringent recently, as well as under the LPG Control Order, is taken. Oil Companies occasionally conduct raids on unauthorised users and confiscate the cylinders, etc., and initiate action under LPG Control Order. Action such as imposition of fine, warning, suspension and even termination is taken against errant distributors.

श्री आरू मोहम्मद : सभापति महोदय मेरे सवाल का कतई यह मकसद नहीं है कि मैं गैस सिलेंडरों की अनियमितता के मामले में मिनिस्ट्री से लम्बा-चौड़ा डाटा हासिल

करूं, मेरा मतलब यह है कि आम जनता के हिस्से का जो गैस है वह चंद अमीर लोग, मिनिस्ट्री के बड़े-बड़े अधिकारियों की मिलीभगत से, हड़प लेते हैं । हमारे कहने का मकसद है, सर, कि --

क्यों मेरे हिस्से का आप चुराते हैं,
कुछ लोग गैस के चूल्हों पर कुत्ता के लिए डबल रोटी पकाते हैं
कुछ लोग भूख की आग से चुल्हे को चलाते हैं
तब जाकर बच्चों के लिए रोटी पकाते हैं

हम जानना चाहते हैं, चेयरमैन सर, कि इस मुल्क में आप जनता के लिए जो गैस मिलनी चाहिए, वह चंद घरों में क्यों चली जाती है :—

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: There is no question!

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no answer!

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: The hon. Member is right that there have been cases relating to diversion of gas which is meant for domestic customers to non-domestic users. The main reason is the price difference between the domestic consumers who are subsidised and non-domestic consumers who are charged at commercial rates. We have received complaints. Accordingly, I intend to eliminate this by asking my companies, the public sector Companies, to progressively withdraw from supplying gas to non-domestic consumers. Parallel marketing companies can look after the non-domestic consumers. The national companies, the PSUs, would concentrate only on the domestic consumers who are subsidised so that even the remaining quantity which was earlier going to non-domestic users can benefit, and would be enjoyed by, our domestic consumers so that the waiting list comes down. This is the policy decision which I have taken. We will progressively withdraw from the non-domestic sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your second supplementary, please.

श्री आसु मोहम्मद : सर, इसमें मिनिस्ट्री के बड़े-बड़े अफसरों और डिस्ट्रिब्यूटस का हाथ है जिसकी वजह से लम्बे-चौड़े पैमाने पर लोग परेशान हो रहे है। तो हम जानना चाहेंगे मंत्री महोदय से कि इसमें एक भी अधिकारी या डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर अब तक कोई सजा पाया है या नहीं ?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: We have very stringent disciplinary guidelines Not only the oil companies are authorised to raid, but also they are authorised to inspect and see whether such cases are there. I have the statistics here for 1994-95. We have carried out 16,071 inspections. The number of irregularities detected were 1,016 and the number of letters of caution issued is 215.

Warning letters were issued to 124, and fines were imposed on 32 distributors. Regarding suspension and termination of distributors, one was suspended, and four were terminated because of such complaints. Let me add, Sir, as the hon. Members are aware, we are having one of the biggest markets for gas; the largest number of consumers anywhere in the world, and you know the demand, the waiting list. What is important is and what we are trying to do is this: Just by penalising we cannot solve the problem; there has to be a scheme of incentives and disincentives. That is what is being worked out so that, in a city, if there are a couple of distributors against whom there is no complaint, who are doing an excellent job; they may deserve some incentives and similarly, there are other distributors who are creating mischiefs, creating problems, against them we have to be even more stringent than we have been. We are working on an incentive and disincentive approach. This scheme is being worked out and as soon as it is worked out, we will let the Member know, the details.

DR. BAPU KALDATE: Sir, the question was very specific. The question is: Have you received any complaints and have you taken any action against the officers who are involved in such type of cases? So, this is the question.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, I have no complaints which I have received against the officers. If the hon. Member has any specific complaint, he can pass it on to me.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in all the cities domestic cylinders finding way for use by the unauthorised customers. We get such types of complaints whenever we go to our constituencies and to small cities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will give an assurance to this House that a special cell or mechanism will be created to keep the market displine intact. In my constituency, in my district, six to eight marketing agencies are required. But, at present, only two agencies are working there and the remaining six have been in the pipeline for a long time in the District of Muzaffarpur. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that for the last so many years only two agencies are working there. From morning, say at 4 or 5 o'clock, one has to be in the line for getting an LPG cylinder for domestic purposes. I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister that immediate steps will be taken to ensure that people get the domestic gas easily and the process which is in the pipeline is completed as soon as possible.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, I can assure the hon. Member and the House that the market displine, if it is found to be wanting, if it needs to be strengthened, certainly, we will strengthen the market displine. As far as part (b) of the question is concerned, it relates to a specific area, namely, Muzaffarpur. The whole strategy of bringing in parallel marketing is to augment the supply of the LPG because we are all aware that the demand is much greater than the supply. Of course, our supply is improving. The foreign marketeers, as I mentioned earlier, we want them not only to supply the non-domestic gas but also concentrate on the cities so that our national companies can go into the smaller towns and also the villages. I have already announced that. So that is our strategy, that is what we are working on. Our strategy is to go to small towns like Muzaffarpur and even to villages in the next two years. That is what we want to do. We want the oil companies to concentrate on smaller towns and smaller villages so that the parallel marketing companies which are coming up can concentrate on the bigger cities.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय सरकार ने गाइड लाइन की बात कही। हम लोग सब्सिडाइज करते है। लेकिन हमारा अनुभव है कि एफुलेंट सेक्शन को हम सब्सिडाइज करते है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या टोटल 2 परसेंट भी आप गैस कनेक्शन बिल पावर्टी लाइन को देते हैं ? सेकड क्वैश्चन इसमे रिलेटेड जो है, पार्ट बी आफ दि कवेश्चन मेरा यह है कि हमारी सूचना के मुताबिक जो यह मुख्य संकट है वह शार्टेज आफ गैस के चलते इस तरह की प्राबलम हो रही है, चाहे उधर डाइवर्ट हो चाहे इधर हो। सरकार ने यह कहा कि हम प्राइवेट सेक्टर में लायेंगे। लेकिन कहां है प्राइवेट सेक्टर ? वह तो जाल फेंकने के बाद पता चलेगा कि वह कहा ले जाते हैं। लेकिन हमारी सूचना है कि ईरान ने बहुत पहले सर्टेन गैस एरिया इंडिया के लिए अलाट किया था कि यह हम आपको देंगे, आप यहां वर्क कीजिए। लेकिन किसी विदेशी कम्पनी के प्रेशर में आकर ईरान द्वारा अलाट प्लाट जो है which is a proof. So, they are not working under some pressure of a foreign company. How far it is true, I would like to know.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, the poorest of the poor in this country use kerosene. The whole strategy is that, if you have an LPG cylinder, the kerosene which you are using should go to the targeted groups.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: They are not using kerosene for fuel purposes. I do not know from where the Minister has got this information. Poor people do not use it for domestic purposes, they use it for lighting purposes. They are not in a position to burn so much of kerosene. You can ask any Member of the ruling party, they can also say. I say, you subsidise for the affluent sections of the society and not those for whom the subsidies are generally meant. This is my first question. So you please help me and if in your guidelines it is not there, you provide it instead of defending your case.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, I have the highest regard for the hon. Member, and I just want to bring it to his nowledge that I have been elected by people whom I consider to be amongst the poorest in the country. It is very unfortunate that they are not getting sometimes. Some people have to pay more than what they should be paying for the kerosene coming through the subsidised route which is only around Rs. 3 per litre. But they have to pay more because of diversion. But certainly those who are getting kerosene are using this for cooking purposes as a whole. But if the hon. Member has any other suggestions in this regard which can help in improving our system, I will certainly consider. As far as part 2 of the question on Iran is concerned, there is no field on offer from Iran, discovered oil-field, to India, but I would like to share with the House that when Mr. Rafsanjani was here, I had detailed discussions with Mr. Ghulam Rasa Abizade, who has been there as Oil Minister for over 12 years. He is a very competent Oil Minister and one of the things I discussed with him was whether the Indian oil companies can help in co-production of oil which will benefit India and Iran. We will raise our own resources, we will invest money, we will take our technical expertise there, we will take our people there. Our people are capable. O.N.G.C; O.I.L; O.N.G.C. Videsh. We can do the job. We have been discussing this. This is one of the issues which I discuss wherever I find there is an opportunity to create an access to oil not only within India, but outside as well, because, I believe, this is such a big challenge. Finding new oil and gas sources for the country is such a big challenge. We have to look not only with in the country, but outside also. We have to look at every opportunity we can get. We are negotiating with Iran. Similarly, there are many other countries. This is very high on my agenda.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sri Mangrola.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, he did not reply to my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have taken too much time on this question than it deserved. Shri Mangrola, please.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: He did not reply to my question. That is my request to you. My question to him was about...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said that you can give your suggestions in this regard.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: All right. My suggestion is that fifteen per cent of the total gas supply should go to the people below the poverty line. I am openly giving this suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you can give the reply after consideration. Shri Mangrola, please.

श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि मिट्टी का तेल ट्राइब्स इलाकों में बिलकुल नहीं मिल रहा है। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि ट्राइबल इलाके में गैस की एंजेंसी के लिए आप क्या

सोच रहे है ? मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि गुजरात में घरेलू गैस सिलडर्स का व्यापारिक प्रतिष्ठानों द्वारा दुरुपयोग किया जा रहा है, क्या सरकार इसकी जांच कराएगी ?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, I have already answered this question. I would like to repeat that it is our strategy to move outside the bigger towns, bigger cities and towns, into smaller towns so that the population in the country residing in the smaller towns also benefits from the sale of LPG. This is already underway. I have already answered this.

श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला : मैं ट्राइबल इलाके की बात कर रहा हूं । **(व्यवधान)**

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: The present norms are: a population, consuming population, of 20,000 and above is considered for an outlet. As you know, the demand is more than the supply.

श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला : हमारे ट्राइबल इलाके मे मिटटी का तेल नहीं मिल रहा है **(व्यवधान)** गैस भी नहीं मिल रही है, उसके लिए सरकार क्या सोच रही है ? **(व्यवधान)**

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, this question does not relate to kerosene. But I had mentioned earlier today, when we were discussing LPG, the kerosene factor. I totally agree ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी : आदिवासी तो जगह-जगह रहते हैं, उनके लिए क्या कर रहे हैं **(व्यवधान)**

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल : मिटटी का तेल भी नहीं मिल रहा है **(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the Minister making some special arrangement for the tribals?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Sir, let me clarify the basic issue here. The Central Government is supplying kerosene to all the States in the country at a subsidised rate. We are spending this year Rs. 4,000 crores on subsidy for the poor, the poorest of the poor. I am talking about kerosene. The idea is that the poorest of the poor all over the country, whether they are tribals or non-tribals, get the supply. Now, if kerosene is not reaching some parts of the country, if some tribals are not receiving it, it is the State Governments which are responsible there because the State Governments have to distribute it. The Centre only gives the quota to the States, to each State in the country.

*404| [*The Questioner (Shri Gopalsinh G. Solanki) was absent. For answer vide col....infra.*]

Construction of strategic road links to Myanmar by China

*405. DR. BAPU KALDATE:†
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is engaged in building strategic road links from the border towns to rail heads and sea ports of Myanmar;

(b) whether China is also helping the development of these ports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what is the reaction of Government of India in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) Government are aware of reports that China is assisting Myanmar in construction

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bapu Kaldate.